

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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R 071352Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2832

UNCLAS OUAGADOUGOU 3903

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, UV

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR BOXING COACH

1. WE WISH TO FOLLOW-UP ON BRIEF BUT HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL VISIT OF CU SPONSORED MILITARY BOXING TEAM TO UPPER VOLTA NOV. 2-6. BOXING IS ONE OF ONLY TWO SPORTS WHERE VOLTANS PREPARED COMPETE AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL, AND VISIT DEMONSTRATED KEEN INTEREST AT ALL LEVELS OF SOCIETY.

2. REQUEST CU APPROVAL AND RECRUITMENT OF BOXING COACH FOR 8 WEEK AMERICAN SPECILIST GRANT IN UPPER VOLTA TO WORK WITH VOLTAN BOXERS AND COACHES. THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AND SPORTS AND BOXING OFFICIALS ARE ENTHUSISTIC ABOUT THE IDEA OF HAVING AN AMERICAN COACH.

3. EMBASSY PROJECTS FIVE FY 77 IVS PLUS AMERICAN TEACHER/RESEARCHER NOW HERE, LEAVING APPROXIMATELY DOLLARS 4200 IN CU ALLOCATION. WOULD THIS BE ENOUGH TO FUND THE COACH?

4. BELIEVE VOLUNTEERS CAN BE RECRUITED LOCALLY TO ACT AS ESCORT-INTERPRETERS DURING STAY. RECENT VISIT OF BOXERS DEMONSTRATED THAT ACTUAL COACHING SESSIONS REQUIRE LITTLE VERBAL ASSISTANCE.

5. TIMING IS NOT CRITICAL AS LONG AS IT IS BEFORE THE WEST AFRICAN GAMES SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 1977. IF COACH CAME IN JANUARY, HOWEVER, HE WOULD BE ABLE TO WORK IN COOLER WEATHER.

6. LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING CU REACTION TO THIS PROPOSAL.GRAHAM

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